



The success of your club's newsletter is dependent in part on what is submitted for publication. Please, if you have something to share send it to the editor. We are always looking for positive input, so why don't you drop me a line today!

Hinges & Tongs

**ROCHESTER PHILATELIC
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

P.O. Box 10206
BRIGHTON STATION,
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March-April 2001
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Chapter #207 (19273) American Philatelic Society
Chapter # 69 American First Day Cover Society
Chapter #84 American Topical Association

[Http://rpa.homepage.com/index.html](http://rpa.homepage.com/index.html)
Check out the RPA Home Page



The Rochester Philatelic Association cordially invites
YOU!

to the "first day of issue" ceremony for the new
"Diabetes- Know More About It" stamp on Friday, March 16 at 9:30 AM
at the Diplomat Banquet Center, near I-390 and Lyell Avenue.

The United States Postal Service has selected that day to release nationwide a special commemorative stamp raising awareness of diabetes. The event is being hosted by the Rochester Philatelic Association in conjunction with our national stamp show, ROPEX, being held at the banquet center March 16-18.

The half-hour program will feature Beverly J. Gaines, District Director of the American Diabetes Association, a representative from ViaHealth speaking about local services for diabetics, and 12 year old Geoffrey Bond who lives with the disease. Also present will be Rochester Postmaster John Montague and Robert Scherzi, USPS Customer Relations Coordinator. Additional dignitaries are expected. It will conclude with the official opening of ROPEX 2001, followed by a brief autograph signing session.

Be there!

Current RPA Officers 2000-2001

President — John Kellas III

Vice President — Mark Hull

Treasurer — George Fekete

Corresponding Secretary — John Cali

Recording Secretary — Jim Piecuch

Immediate Past President — Ed Kawasaki

Board of Governors

Ray Stone (term expires June 30, 2001)

Norm Wright (term expires June 30, 2002)

Chuck Schultz (term expires June 30, 2003)

Membership Chair — Florence Wright

President's Spring Message

Everyone get ready for ROPEX 2001 is only a few weeks away, March 16-18th....Looks like the show may host a First Day Issue on Friday the 16th. There will be more on that from the ROPEX Committee. There will be a meeting on March 8th, March 22nd, and on April 12th. The planned programs will be announced by Vice President Mark Hull. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A RPA MEETING ON APRIL 26TH, the Church will be hosting their annual "Antique Show" starting April 25 through the 29th..... We are always seeking live programs for any of the RPA meetings. If YOU would like to give a program please speak to any RPA officer or phone me at work — McLeod Stamp & Coin Co. — 244-0240. John Kellas III, RPA President.

Editor's Observations

ROPEX activities are now in full swing. The show has some interesting developments in store for all of us. Among the things found in this issue should be a calendar of upcoming events as well as the ROPEX daily agenda.

ROPEX BANQUET: Last call for those interested in attending the **ROPEX Banquet!** The buffet will include carved prime rib, seafood Newberg, and several other entrees along with salads, vegetables, and all the trimmings. Tickets are available until **March 9 at \$20 with no late reservations accepted.** You must RSVP to Tom Fortunato by email at stampmf@frontiernet.net or phone weekdays at (716) 586-5757 x 6832 to make reservations.

PROGRAMS: Please note the President's Message. The details of what we will have for meetings and programs are clearly listed there.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES are extended to Joe Doles on the recent death of his mother. It came as a complete surprise to me when I had occasion to contact him.

PLEASE WELCOME our newest member Luis K. Griff, Jr., of Rochester. His stamp interests include United States, United Nations and worldwide.

We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of most months between September and June. Our headquarters are in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, on the corner of East Avenue and Vick Park B, across from the George Eastman House. A buy/sell/trade session runs from 7-7:45 PM, followed by the formal meeting at 7:45 PM. A silent auction concludes most evening's program.

March 16-18 Rochester ROPEX'01

Sponsored by the Rochester Philatelic Association. Diplomat Banquet Center, 1 Diplomat Way, Gates, NY. Hours: Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Dealers, exhibits, US Postal Service, show cancel and cacheted envelopes.

Contact: (716) 621-1670.

Website: <http://rpa.homepage.com/ropex.html>

Mar 18 Albany/Latham Capital District Stamp Show

Latham Holiday Inn, 945 New Loudon Rd (Rt. 9), 2 miles north of Latham Circle.

Hours: 10-4. Bourse.

Contact: (518)399-8395. Email: nunesnook@aol.com

Mar 30-Apr 1 Cheektowaga BUFPEX 2001

Sponsored by the Buffalo Stamp Club. VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave.

Hours: Fri 1-8, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3. Dealers, exhibits, US Postal Service, show cancel and cacheted envelopes.

Apr 7-8 Syracuse Syracuse Stamp, Coin & Collectibles Show

Holiday Inn- Carrier Circle, exit 35. Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Bourse. Contact: (315)452-0593

Apr 15 Albany/Latham Capital District Stamp Show

Latham Holiday Inn, 945 New Loudon Rd (Rt. 9), 2 miles north of Latham Circle.

Hours: 10-4. Bourse.

Contact: (518)399-8395. Email: nunesnook@aol.com

Apr 16 Cheektowaga Erie County Coin, Stamp, Currency Show

FJ Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee, Street. Hours: 11-5. Bourse. Contact: (716)633-4104

April 20-22 Toronto CSDA National Show

Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place. Hours: Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Dealers, Canada Post. Bourse.

May 20 Albany/Latham Capital District Stamp Show

Latham Holiday Inn, 945 New Loudon Rd (Rt. 9), 2 miles north of Latham Circle.

Hours: 10-4. Bourse.

Contact: (518)399-8395. Email: nunesnook@aol.com

May 21 Cheektowaga Erie County Coin, Stamp, Currency Show

FJ Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee, Street. Hours: 11-5. Bourse. Contact: (716)633-4104

June 17 Albany/Latham Capital District Stamp Show

Latham Holiday Inn, 945 New Loudon Rd (Rt. 9), 2 miles north of Latham Circle.

Hours: 10-4. Bourse.

Contact: (518)399-8395. Email: nunesnook@aol.com

June 18 Cheektowaga Erie County Coin, Stamp, Currency Show

FJ Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee, Street. Hours: 11-5. Bourse. Contact: (716)633-4104

Courtesy of Luis K. Griff Jr.

Quote from "Exclusively White House Trivia"

By Anthony S. Pitch

Q "Which country issued commemorative stamps for *Socks*, the Clinton's pet cat?"

A "The Central African Republic"

From Tom Fortunato

Post Office offers mail order/internet sales to collectors

The Providence, RI post office is offering internet and mail order sales to collectors. We research plate numbers and variances for coils, booklets, vending products, etc. We notify our customers via e-mail or first class mail of new finds when we make them. For more information, contact Donna at RIStamps@email.usps.gov.

NEW MEMBERS

RPA is always looking for, and ready to welcome new members to the group. One way to accomplish this is if for each member to actively invite friends or acquaintances to our meetings, encourage them to get interested in stamp collecting, and then to join.

The stamp hobby has so many "branches" — covers, cancels, topical collecting, classic U.S. or foreign — that there is surely something for everyone.

Take time to volunteer at the Hospitality table at ROPEX (March 16-18) where application blanks will be available, and the opportunity to sign up new members is right there!

TIME FOR TOPICALS

The current issue of Topical Time features a well-illustrated article on "Identifiable Cameras" (on stamps) by Ralph London.

"Caves" is another feature in the January-February issue, and there are many more. Ask librarian Joe Doles to let you borrow this, or any previous issues, for some interesting reading.

The R S Stamp Co., aka Bob and Elli Steeb, sent out a news item recently. They listed several stamp shows that are coming up. You are sure to see them at some of the area shows listed elsewhere in H & T. They state that "supplements are starting to be available. Harris Liberty 1 is out, and others are promised soon. Give us a call and we'll get your order in and deliver it as soon as available."

Their show schedule is as follows:

March 16, 17 & 18 ROPEX 10-6; 10-5 & 10-4

March 30, 31, Apr. 1 BUFPEX 1-8; 10-5 & 10-3

May 6 Lockport Stamp & Coin 10-4

Fall time frame Olean Stamp Show

May 19 & 20 Butler County Stamp Show 10-5/4

June 3 R S Stamp Show 10-4

July 28 & 29 1,000 Island Collectibles

Show 10-5/4

We hope you can make some, or all, of these events. The people putting on these shows work very hard to bring dealers together and your support is important. If you'd like specific directions or more information on any of these shows, give us a call 716/621-5019. Or write at 112 Beverly Heights, Rochester, NY 14616.

THANK YOU to George Hill, Luis Griff Jr., Tom Fortunato, Florence Wright, Elli and Bob Steeb for their contributions to Hinges & Tongs this time. I must also thank Florence for her recent donation of mailing seals. It will make life easier for your editor. See you all at **ROPEX!!**

RPA members are encouraged to assist Florence in seeking out new members. Please see her for copies of H & T to show others just how educational our hobby can be. **Need a ride?** Contact an officer to inquire how best to attend a meeting and return home!!



Meetings will take place either in the lower level room of the banquet center or the ROPEX Hospitality Room (ground floor of the Best Western Hotel). A lunch area is available daily. Note that the lower level is not handicapped accessible.

See individual exhibits for times the exhibitor will be available to answer questions about his or her display.

Thursday, March 15

8 AM-6 PM ROPEX setup (exhibitors welcome 2-6 PM)

7:30-10:30 PM Hospitality Room Open

Friday, March 16

8-10 AM Hospitality Room Open

9:30-10 AM Diabetes First Day Ceremony

12 Noon-1 PM Lunch Area Available

12 Noon Exhibitors Luncheon (Dutch Treat)

3 PM ACE-Art Cover Exchange General Meeting

6 PM Show Closes

7:30-10:30 PM Hospitality Room Open

Saturday, March 17

8-10 AM Hospitality Room Open

10 AM Show opens, youth activities throughout the day

10 AM APS Town Meeting (all welcome)

11 AM-1 PM Christmas Seal & Charity Society open meeting

11 AM Empire State Postal History Meeting (Hospitality Room)

12 Noon Chapter 53 Central NY First Day Cover Society Luncheon (Dutch Treat Off Site)

1-2 PM Lunch Area Available

2 PM American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors' Seminar presented by Ann Triggie

2 PM Federation of Central NY Philatelic Societies Meeting (Hospitality Room)

3-4:30 PM Judges Exhibit Critique

3 PM Mobile Post Office Society Meeting (Hospitality Room)

5 PM Show Closes

6 PM Pre-Banquet Cocktails (Diplomat Banquet Center)

6:30 PM ROPEX 2001 Awards Banquet (Diplomat Banquet Center)

8-11 PM Hospitality Room Open

Sunday, March 18

8-10 AM Hospitality Room Open

10 AM Show opens

10 AM Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society presentation

11 AM The Marmalades "Show & Tell" (Hospitality Room)

11-1 PM Christmas Philatelic Club Open Meeting

1-2 PM Lunch Area Available

12-2 PM NY Philatelic Bandits Hootenanny & Pizza Party/Stamp Swap (Hospitality Room)

4 PM Show Closes

We never do anything half-way, and so is the case this year with ROPEX, a couple weeks away. Boy do we have news for you! Below is a press release about the first day ceremony to be held on the opening day of our show. With thanks to the USPS (who very graciously changed the first day of the upcoming Diabetes stamp from Boston on Thursday, March 15, to a nationwide release on Friday, March 16), we hope you will take part!

ROPEX to Host "Unofficial" Diabetes First Day Ceremony

When is a first day ceremony not "the" first day ceremony? When it's a nationwide first day release, of course! While the USPS has named Boston as the official site for just a release, Rochester, NY's event that same day will be equally inviting.

On Friday, March 16, the Rochester Philatelic Association will host its own ceremony for the "Diabetes-Know About It" commemorative in conjunction with their national stamp show, ROPEX. It is being held at 9:30 AM at the Diplomat Banquet Center, near I-390 and Lyell Avenue in Rochester and open to the public.

The half-hour program features Beverly J. Gaines, District Director of the American Diabetes Association, a representative from ViaHealth speaking about local services for diabetics, and 12 year old Geoffrey Bond who lives with the disease. Also present will be Rochester Postmaster John Montague and Robert Scherzi, USPS Customer Relations Coordinator. Additional dignitaries are expected. It will conclude with the opening of ROPEX 2001, followed by a brief autograph signing session for those receiving the RPA's first day souvenir program.

Attendees will then head for the thirty three dealers and 216 frames of exhibits ROPEX offers throughout the three day event. The show's hours are 10-6, 10-5 and 10-4. Friday through Saturday, respectively. It will have stamps, covers, and philatelic material for every taste and budget. Members of the public are also invited to bring their items for evaluation by knowledgeable experts.

For additional details, see the RPA web site at <http://rpa.homepage.com/ropex.html>, or email stampmf@frontiernet.net.

I'll also take this opportunity to pass along the latest dealer listing courtesy of our bourse chairman, Bob Steeb. I've just found out that we just had a dealer pull out and we have an open table. If any of you know of a dealer interested in filling that position, please let Bob know at rsstamp@aol.com as soon as possible!

NAME AND PHONE

DAVID & JONI ALLEGO 724/266-4237

AMIS STAMPS 416/533-5363

JOHN AZARKEVICH

ED BAILEY 315/452-0593

TOM BARON STAMP CO. 516/763-9205

BETSY & CHUCK 814/466-3469

DISCOVERY STAMPS 315/652-5517

DONOFRIO PHILATELICS 716/247-8975

EAST-WEST PHILATELICS 914/668-6623

FINGER LAKES INTERNATIONAL 716/289-6395

AL GRECO STAMPS 315/986-7948

HAMPSHIRE STAMPS 603/673-7180

WILLIAM HATTON

JUDAICA SALES 450/687-0632

LAKEWOOD STAMPS 814/866-0352

LONG ISLAND PHILATELICS

STEVEN MALACK 607/862-9441

MCLEOD STAMP CO. 716/244-0240

MICKELSON PHILATELICS 315/488-7066

NICKEL CITY STAMPS 716/634-6871

JOHN NUNES 518/399-8395

PACK-RAT COVERS 616/521-6023

REID STAMPS 914/887-5448

LES ROSEN 315/652-9635

R S STAMP CO. 716/521-5019

JOHN RUDNICKI 416/532-2781

RAYMOND STUMMER 315/458-5910

WILLIAM ROYER 704/888-2907

TOM'S STAMPS 724/287-1931

MARK SZUBA 315/699-3948

WHIT'S COVERS

LAURENCE L. WINUM 800/914-8090

The Excitement Continues

(Guest columnist George Hill)

The Rochester Philatelic Association meetings are great to attend. These meetings provide opportunities to learn about philatelic events, hear about other members' collections, view a presentation by an RPA member or a slide show provided by APS, bid in the silent auctions, and visit with friends. Soon to be added to this collage of activity is the return of the **ONE PAGE CONTEST**.

For lack of any reason known to the officers, this once popular meeting activity lost popularity and faded from the fun scene. Your columnist, during a recent meeting, held an open forum to determine potential renewed interest in starting the program once again.

Having received encouraging remarks about the program and a number of suggested topics that might challenge the members to participate, the programs' first contest was held at the last meeting. Four entries made interesting viewing and when the votes were counted, **Joe Doles won** by a slim margin attesting to the fact that the quality of the entries made judging difficult for the membership. By the way, judging is by the membership in attendance and the winner is determined by having polled the greatest number of votes. In case of a tie, the president's vote would determine the winner.

The following suggestions for contest topics were offered during the forum;

- Men/Women on Stamps
- Stamps without gum
- Stamps without perforations
- Pre-WW1 airmail stamps/covers
- Incorrect usage of stamps (over/under pay)
- The most beautiful stamps
- Covers without stamps
- "Free" franked covers
- Meters
- Postmarks
- Pictorial Cancels
- Mailer Marks
- Permit Marks
- Dinosaurs from foreign countries
- Dinosaurs pictured on U.S. Stamp
- Topicals... various

Stamp Varieties

Modern Issues

U.S. Commemoratives (Recent)

U.S. Commemoratives (Selected Periods)

Despots on Stamps

Different Usage of the same stamp

Classes of Mail (1st, 2nd, airmail, etc.)

Unique Uses of Stamps

Junk Mail

More topics may be suggested at any time.

On reviewing the list of suggestions, it became apparent that a challenge could be presented to attract participation. A few topics will be selected for several of the monthly contests and announced in the newsletter to provide sufficient time for members to gather material for their page.

Prizes other than recognition in the newsletter have yet to be determined. We want to see the level of participation before making that commitment. In the meantime, please help make this a meaningful activity for "club night". Make it something extra to look forward to and create additional excitement in the meetings.

Our tentative schedule for the current season is as follows:

February 22	Women on Stamps
March 22	Topical (Any)
April 26	U.S. Commemorative
May 24	Pictorial Cancels

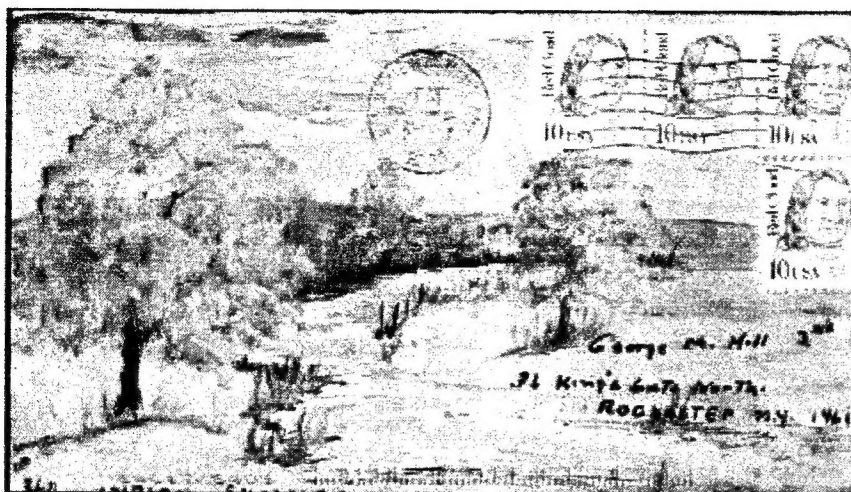
Suggestions for running the competition are welcome. We want to keep the rules simple and make this an easy, and an enjoyable experience for the membership. Help the committee to make your additional evening's event one you will PRIZE.



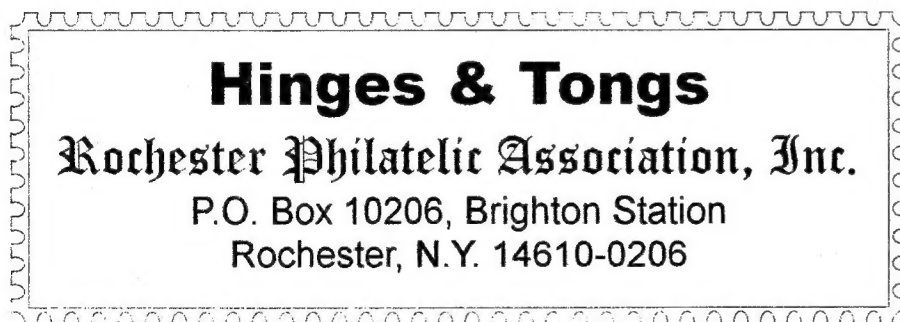
Art Cover Exchange
Cover of the Year

This coveted award for best-of-the-best covers for the year 2000 recognizes the work of a "humble and gracious" lady, Audrey Pankratz ACE 360 and member of the Rochester Philatelic Association. Individually produced hand painted covers similar to the one presented in nomination were submitted by several members.

Audrey's artistic covers are always welcomed when received. The winning cover is shown in the November NL. It is interesting to note, that Audrey had strong competition and the COY category almost required a tie breaker vote by the president attesting to the quality of the competition.



GMH3



Articles may be submitted to:
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